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A HISTORICAL AND ETHNOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION OF HOUSEHOLDS ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE ESTATE CERNIK FROM 1760 TO 1850

SUMMARY

The author discusses interaction between demographic (size and structure) and economic (size of landholding) characteristics of households on a Croatian estate in the period between the middle of the 18th and the middle of the 19th century. The paper is partly based on the author's dissertation entitled "Economic and Demographic History of Peasant Households on a Croatian Estate, 1756- 1848".

The discussion is embedded in an ethnological framework consisting of four elements: holism, integration of culture, controlled comparison and developmental perspective on studying households. Within the methodological framework of dynamic view of households the author opens a discussion on *zadruga*, supposedly a dominant household type in Croatia at the time of analysis. Criticizing the reliance on data about household size and structure to infer the existence or non-existence of *zadruga*, the author proposes to distinguish legal from socio-

cultural aspects of households. From a legal point of view, at the time all households were *zadrugas*, that is they had a joint usufruct of land on which they jointly worked and of which they jointly disposed. From a socio-cultural perspective, and regardless of the legal aspect, households were, among other things, of simpler or complex structure, smaller or bigger. The author asserts that these two perspectives should be kept separate and that an ethnological perspective should focus on socio-cultural variables.

Size and structure are studied within a circular model in which various factors - demographic, economic, social and cultural - exist in concomitance and influence one another simultaneously. The second part of the study is entirely devoted to explicating this circular model, especially determinants of household characteristics on the estate of Cernik. The author finds that on a small area encompassed by the estate, two, or even three types of demographic regimes, economic structure and socio-cultural context existed. The interpretation is devoted to explicating these differences.

Another part of the study sets household size and structure found on this estate within a wider context of the region of Slavonia. This comparison results in several hypotheses regarding size, structure and development of households over time. Among other things, the author finds that at the time the number of household members in both civil and military parts of Slavonia was relatively small and similar, and that there were urban and rural differences in these variables.